

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 09 JUN 2005

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims 3-7, 9, 10 and 12-15 and ADD new claims 16-27 in accordance with the following:

1. (original) An electrode catalyst, comprising:
a conductive carrier, and
a mixture containing a particulate noble metal and at least one particulate rare-earth oxide, the mixture being supported on said conductive carrier
wherein said particulate rare-earth oxide has an alkaline-earth metal as solid solution therein.
2. (original) The electrode catalyst according to claim 1, wherein said conductive carrier is a particulate carb on.
3. (currently amended) The electrode catalyst according to claim 1-~~or 2~~claim 1, wherein said noble metal is silver, platinum, or palladium.
4. (currently amended) The electrode catalyst according to claim 1-~~or 2~~claim 1, wherein said noble metal is silver.
5. (currently amended) The electrode catalyst according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of said noble metal to said rare-earth oxide is from 1 : 0.01 to 1 : 4.0.
6. (currently amended) The electrode catalyst according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, wherein said rare-earth oxide is cerium oxide.
7. (currently amended) The electrode catalyst according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, wherein said alkaline-earth metal is at least one selected from a group consisting of magnesium, calcium, and strontium.

8. (original) The electrode catalyst according to claim 6, wherein the molar ratio of said cerium oxide to said alkaline-earth metal is from 1 : 0.005 to 1 : 0.3.

9. (currently amended) The electrode catalyst according to ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1 for use in a gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis.

10. (currently amended) A gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis, characterized by use of the electrode catalyst according to ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1.

11. (original) An electrode catalyst comprising a conductive carrier, and a mixture containing a particulate noble metal and at least one particulate rare-earth oxide, the mixture being supported on the conductive carrier.

12. (currently amended) A process for preparing a gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis comprising laminating a reaction layer containing the electrode catalyst according to ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, a gas diffusion layer containing a conductive carrier, and a collector.

13. (currently amended) Use of the electrode catalyst according to ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 in a gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis.

14. (currently amended) A method for using the electrode catalyst according to ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, characterized in that the electrode catalyst is used as a catalyst component for the reaction layer of a gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis.

15. (currently amended) A method for gas diffusion electrode-based brine electrolysis, comprising using the electrode catalyst according to ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1.

16. (new) The electrode catalyst according to claim 2, wherein said noble metal is silver, platinum, or palladium.

17. (new) The electrode catalyst according to claim 16, wherein said noble metal is silver.

18. (new) The electrode catalyst according to claim 17, wherein the molar ratio of said noble metal to said rare-earth oxide is from 1 : 0.01 to 1 : 4.0.
19. (new) The electrode catalyst according to claim 18, wherein said rare-earth oxide is cerium oxide.
20. (new) The electrode catalyst according to claim 19, wherein said alkaline-earth metal is at least one selected from a group consisting of magnesium, calcium, and strontium.
21. (new) The electrode catalyst according to claim 20, wherein the molar ratio of said cerium oxide to said alkaline-earth metal is from 1 : 0.005 to 1 : 0.3.
22. (new) The electrode catalyst according to claim 21 for use in a gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis.
23. (new) A gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis, characterized by use of the electrode catalyst according to claim 22.
24. (new) A process for preparing a gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis comprising laminating a reaction layer containing the electrode catalyst according to claim 22, a gas diffusion layer containing a conductive carrier, and a collector.
25. (new) Use of the electrode catalyst according to claim 22 in a gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis.
26. (new) A method for using the electrode catalyst according to claim 22, characterized in that the electrode catalyst is used as a catalyst component for the reaction layer of a gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis.
27. (new) A method for gas diffusion electrode-based brine electrolysis, comprising using the electrode catalyst according to claim 22.